VZCZCXYZ0000 PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSF #0667 2941443
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 201443Z OCT 08
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5460
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS SOFIA 000667

STATE PLEASE PASS OPIC WPIERCE AND JHANSLEY

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ENRG EINV PGOV BU

SUBJECT: OPIC ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT FUND IN BULGARIA

REF: STATE 103210

11. The following is post's evaluation of the role of OPIC's proposed renewable energy fund in Bulgaria, as requested in reftel.

OPIC's proposed environmental fund would enhance Bulgaria's ability to meet ambitious EU targets on climate change. We understand that through its support for the Global Clean Energy Fund, OPIC will direct funds to projects related to the production of biomass, small hydro, geothermal, and bio-fuels in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria. The proposed OPIC program is a timely and needed innovation that will help Bulgaria develop alternative energy sources. As such, it will be greeted positively in Bulgaria by both government and private sector actors.

MCELDOWNEY